

As the Director for a multi-agency multi-jurisdictional public safety answering point for local municipalities, I have regularly faced the need to coordinate frequencies for our police, fire and ambulance agencies. All the frequencies that we use are below 470 MHz. This means that when I need to coordinate a frequency, I often have to deal with multiple coordinators. This adds needless time and expense to my efforts. We recently completed the consolidation of the dispatch operations into a newly constructed facility. This along with the replacement of the existing radio infrastructure required the coordination of the licenses we held. There were needless delays due to the multiple coordinators that had to be involved under the current rules. It also added additional fees for the multiple coordinators. Being in the suburban Chicago area we are extremely short of spectrum for public safety use. The multiple coordinators also limits our access to some of the available frequencies in the Public Safety Pool. The open competition between frequency coordinators would also help to maintain competition in the fees charged for coordination services.

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